



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE, METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute pure methamphetamine and cocaine.

**Steven L. Morris**, 25, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to three years and four months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 8, 2005, **Morris** pleaded guilty to participating in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and five grams or more of pure methamphetamine from May 1 through June 7, 2005. **Morris** is the first of three co-defendants sentenced on the charge contained in a June 21, 2005, federal indictment. All three co-defendants were arrested at **Morris'** residence, Grave said, when they attempted to sell 1/4 kilo of cocaine to an undercover officer for \$5,500.

\* **Francisco Montantes**, 30, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Sept. 7, 2005. **Montantes** admitted that he conspired to distribute cocaine on June 7, 2005. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2006. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Montantes** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million.

\* **Juan Carlos Fraire-Perez**, also known as David Medina, 22, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, pleaded guilty on Oct. 12, 2005, to his role in the cocaine and methamphetamine conspiracy as well as to entering the country illegally on June 7, 2005. **Fraire-Perez** admitted that he supplied co-defendants with methamphetamine and cocaine. On two occasions, Graves said, they sold the drugs to undercover law enforcement officers. On one occasion, Graves said, an undercover officer purchased an ounce of methamphetamine for \$1,500, and on another occasion an undercover officer purchased two ounces of methamphetamine for \$3,000.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph M. Marquez. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)